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TO: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME MONITORING REPORTS – RENAISSANCE
UNLIMITED, RENAISSANCE #1 AND RENAISSANCE #2 SITES**

We have completed a review of the two agencies operated by Renaissance Unlimited, Renaissance #1 and Renaissance #2. Each home contracts with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Renaissance #1 and Renaissance #2 are 6-bed facilities located in the Second Supervisorial District that provide care for children ages 13-17 years who exhibit emotional and behavioral difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Renaissance #1 was providing services for three Los Angeles County DCFS children and one Los Angeles County DCFS/Probation child. Renaissance #2 was providing services for six DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to verify that the two agencies are providing services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. The review included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each of the homes at the time of the reviews. The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the programs services provided by the homes and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, both homes were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we did note various areas where improvements are needed.

Renaissance #1

Renaissance #1 needs to make some repairs to the facility and improve its Needs and Services Plans.

Renaissance #2

Renaissance #2 needs to make some improvements to the facility; improve its Needs and Services Plans; provide daily living, self-help, and survival skills training; provide residents with a sufficient number of age-appropriate recreational activities and include residents in the planning of activities; and train two of their staff on how to appropriately interact with residents and monitor their behavior towards residents.

Attached are detailed reports of the findings for each home.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days of this report. We thank Renaissance Unlimited's management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

RENAISSANCE UNLIMITED
Renaissance #1
2718 S. Redondo Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016
Phone: (323) 935-1786
License No.: 191800135
Rate Classification Level: 6

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #1 is located in a suburban neighborhood and blends in well with the other homes on the street. The exterior and surrounding grounds were well maintained.

Overall, the interior of the facility was clean and comfortable. The bedrooms were nicely maintained and personalized by the residents. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

In the resident bathroom, the shower had mildew and the window did not fit properly creating a gap through which insects could enter. Some of the stairs and the landing of the staircase were wobbly.

In bedroom number one, both of the mattresses were sagging and worn, one bed was broken, the screen did not fit the window, and a can of insect repellent spray was found on the window sill posing a safety hazard.

In bedroom number two, the screen did not fit the window and, in bedroom number three, one of the mattresses was sagging and worn. Most of the pillows on the residents' beds were worn and flat.

The agency had a variety of athletic and educational supplies, including exercise equipment, video games, board games, books, and a computer.

The children reported overall satisfaction with their bedrooms and the facility.

The food supply was of adequate quantity and quality and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. **Renaissance #1 management:**
 - a. **Remove mildew from the residents' shower.**
 - b. **Repair window screens in the residents' bathroom and in bedrooms number one and two.**
 - c. **Repair the stairs and the landings of the staircase.**
 - d. **Replace the sagging and worn mattresses in the resident bedrooms.**
 - e. **Replace the broken bed in bedroom number one.**
 - f. **Remove hazardous materials out of the reach of the residents and store in a locked area.**
 - g. **Replace all the worn and flat pillows on the residents' beds.**

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #1 provided and documented the program services to its residents. The initial assessments were thorough, detailed, and focused on several aspects of the assessment needs of the residents.

Both residents had Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) in their files. Although the NSPs were detailed and specifically designed for each resident, the goals were not measurable or achievable. In addition, the residents and their authorized representatives did not provide input into the NSPs.

The residents' Quarterly Reports were detailed, comprehensive, and addressed the children's therapeutic, residential, educational, and social goals.

Both residents were receiving clinical services, in a variety of therapeutic milieus. In addition to group and individual therapy conducted by social work staff or contractors as described in the program statement, behavioral and psychological treatments were provided on regular weekly or more frequent basis.

Recommendations

2. Renaissance #1 management:
 - a. Create Needs and Services Plans that have measurable and achievable goals.
 - b. Include each resident and their authorized representative's input into the Needs and Services Plans.

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #1 documented education and emancipation services provided to its residents. Copies of progress reports, report cards, and other school correspondence were maintained in the residents' files. The residents stated that the staff provided adequate educational support, educational resources, and daily cognitive stimulation.

Both residents reported that they were taught activities for daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Age-appropriate residents were provided with emancipation and vocational training programs.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #1 provided appropriate recreational activities to its residents. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and quantity of activities provided by the facility and stated that the recreation schedules were followed.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources. The residents reported that they participated in the planning of the activities and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were four residents placed in the home at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #1 has ensured that the personal rights of its residents are respected. The residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and the staff. The children stated that they felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. Both residents reported satisfaction with the food.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. The residents also reported that staff supervised them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff.

Both residents reported that their privacy was respected and that they were able to contact their social workers and attorneys at any time.

The residents stated that they received appropriate medical care, were informed about the medications that they were taking, and that there was ample support from the staff and medical personnel about all health issues.

The residents stated that they had religious freedom and were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #1 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the residents. Renaissance #1 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Renaissance #1 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

RENAISSANCE UNLIMITED
Renaissance #2
14835 Purche Ave.
Gardena, CA 90249
Phone: (310) 323-8096
License No.: 198201583
Rate Classification Level: 6

I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance Unlimited, Renaissance #2, (Renaissance #2) is located in a suburban neighborhood and blends in well with the other homes on the street. The exterior and surrounding grounds were well maintained.

Overall, the interior of the facility was clean and comfortable. The bedrooms were nicely maintained and personalized by the residents. However, there were areas in need of improvement.

In the resident bathroom, the shower had mildew and, in bedroom number one, patched spots on the walls needed repair. In bedroom number two, one mattress was sagging and worn and there was insufficient lighting. In bedroom number three, both mattresses were sagging and worn and the lighting was insufficient. Most of the pillows on the residents' beds were worn and flat.

A container of bleach was standing on the laundry machine in the laundry room within reach of the residents posing a safety hazard.

The agency had a variety of athletic and educational supplies, including exercise equipment, video games, board games, books, and a computer.

The food supply was of adequate quantity and quality and properly stored.

Recommendations

- 1. Renaissance #2 management:**
 - a. Remove mildew from the residents' shower.**

- b. Repair the walls in bedroom number one.
- c. Replace sagging and worn out mattresses in bedrooms number two and three.
- d. Install sufficient lighting in bedrooms number two and three.
- e. Replace the worn and flat pillows on the residents' beds.
- f. Remove hazardous materials out of the residents' reach and store in a locked area.

II. PROGRAM SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #2 provided and documented the program services to its residents. The initial assessments were thorough, detailed, and focused on several aspects of the assessment needs of the residents.

Both residents had Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) in their files. Although the NSPs were specifically designed for each resident, the goals were not measurable or not achievable. In addition, the residents and their authorized representatives did not provide input into the NSPs.

The residents' Quarterly Reports were detailed, comprehensive, and addressed the children's therapeutic, residential, educational, and social goals.

Both residents were receiving clinical services, in a variety of therapeutic milieus. In addition to group and individual therapy conducted by social work staff or contractors as described in the program statement, behavioral and psychological treatments were provided on regular weekly or more frequent basis.

Recommendations

- 2. **Renaissance #2 management:**
 - a. **Create Needs and Services Plans that have measurable and achievable goals.**
 - b. **Include each resident and their authorized representative input into the Needs and Services Plans.**

III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #2 documented the education and emancipation services provided to its residents. Copies of progress reports, report cards, and other school correspondence were maintained in the residents' files. The residents stated that the staff provided adequate educational support, educational resources, and daily cognitive stimulation.

However, the residents were not taught basic essential daily living, self-help, and survival skills, such as cooking, shopping, and transportation.

Age-appropriate residents were provided with emancipation and vocational training programs.

Recommendation

- 3. Renaissance #2 management provide the residents with daily living, self-help, and survival skills training.**

IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #2 was not providing sufficient recreational activities to its residents. The residents expressed a lack of satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by the facility. The residents reported, and the recreation schedules confirmed, that the residents were exposed to a very limited number of organized, age-appropriate outings and events. The residents also stated that they did not participate in planning activities.

Local community organizations were utilized for recreation and program resources. The children reported that they were able to participate in self-selected activities and that transportation was provided to some of the activities.

Recommendations

4. Renaissance #2 management:
 - a. Provide a sufficient number of age-appropriate recreational activities for the residents.
 - b. Include residents in the planning of recreational activities.

V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in the home at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.

Comments:

According to management there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #2 has ensured that the personal rights of its residents are respected. Residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and most of the staff. However, the residents stated that a staff member yells at the children frequently and singles out his verbal aggression on one of the residents in particular. The residents also stated that another staff often treated the residents somewhat unfairly. This issue was discussed with management during the exit conference who stated that the staff would receive training on how to appropriately interact with residents, and their behavior toward residents would be monitored.

The children stated that they felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. Both residents reported satisfaction with the food.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced by all of the staff and that they had fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. The residents also reported that staff supervised them appropriately and expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with all but two of the staff. Both residents reported that their privacy was respected and that they were able to contact their social workers and attorneys at any time.

The residents stated that they received appropriate medical care, were informed about the medications that they were taking, and that there was ample support from the staff and medical personnel about all health issues.

The residents stated that they had religious freedom and were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

- 5. Renaissance #2 management provide training on how to appropriately interact with residents for two staff members and monitor their behavior towards residents.**

VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Renaissance #2 provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and allowances to the residents. Renaissance #2 supplies its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The residents are provided with at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Renaissance #2 provides residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.